

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 19, 25, and 44 are independent claims.

35 U.S.C. § 112, FIRST AND SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTIONS

Applicants believe that these rejections have been traversed, as indicated in paragraph 10 of the Advisory Action mailed October 8, 2003.

35 U.S.C. § 103(A) WITEK ET AL/ NEXPO '97 REJECTION

Claims 1-50 are still rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Witek et al. and further in view of NEXPO '97. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit the Declaration of Mr. Thomas Brandenburg. Applicants believe the present declaration indicates that it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Witek et al. with NEXPO '97. Accordingly, in view of this additional evidence, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and allowance of claims 1-50 of the present application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the various rejection and allowance of each of claims 1-50 is respectfully requested.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$420.00 extension fee herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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